



Reflection on Indonesian & Malaysian Joy PLL Trip 2026

As we share reflections from our time in Southeast Asia, we offer these notes in the spirit in which they were spoken -- early impressions, personal moments, and initial takeaways from a rich and layered experience. We invite you to read them with curiosity and grace, remembering that understanding continues to unfold long after the trip ends.

Themes Observed

- They welcomed us with generosity and grace. They were excited to share their history and culture. There was no bitterness. We live in harmony today.
- They have an attitude of unity, respect, tolerance, and love.
- Deeply peaceful coexistence. It goes under the surface of so many belief systems.
- Unity in language and government. Is there more we could learn about intercultural relationships?
- No consistency. As a Westerner that looks contradictory for one person to have two thoughts. But that's a Westerner's idea.
- Seeing the Christ already there. Teaching us to see how we can love more.
- The discipline of prayer and meditation and focusing thought. Can we do that too?
- The valuing of art in a culture. Specifically the large number of art makers where people expressed with color and design. The beauty and pleasure.
- Some expressed moral consciousness in caring about the environment. Others did not.
- The all-pervasiveness of their religion. It's a part of all of their lives. Found it oppressive.
- Community support -- 200 people per mosque
- Such a sense of joy from people who have so little materially.
- Impressed with their innocence. Age had nothing to do with it. Happy children. No crying. No tantrums. Peace and tranquility among the little ones.
- They wanted us to come back. Welcoming of all religions – in contrast to what I feel in my own country. Seeing Christ, living love.
- Gratitude expressed in Bali. The offerings were not a burden or demand.
- Smiling to communicate.